

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJECT: BELGRADE PARTY COMMITTEE TO MEET

REF: BELGRADE A-462

1. SUMMARY: BELGRADE PARTY ORGANIZATION WILL MEET EARLY SEPTEMBER TO EVALUATE ITS PAST PERFORMANCE. NO LARGE-SCALE PERSONNEL CHANGES HAVE BEEN SIGNALLED, BUT PARTICIPANTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE EXERCISE IN SELF-CRITICISM FOR FAILING TO ACT MORE DECISIVELY SOONER. END SUMMARY.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 21 DJORDJE LAZIC, SECRETARY OF BELGRADE PARTY COMMITTEE, ANNOUNCED COMMITTEE WILL MEET EARLY NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS SUCCESS (OR LACK THEREOF) OF ITS EFFORTS TO ROOT OUT ALL FORMS OF LIBERALISM. LAZIC POINTED TO "JUSTIFIED" CRITICISM (SEE REFAIR) MADE RECENTLY, NOTING THAT MAJOR CONTRIBUTING CAUSE TO BELGRADE PARTY'S PROBLEMS WAS ITS FAILURE TO CARRY OUT SATISFACTORY ANALYSIS OF LIBERALISM AND TECHNOCRATISM. HE CONFESSED THAT BELGRADE HAD BEEN MAJOR CENTER FOR BOTH "ISMS". HE SAID, IN ADDITION, THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ANALYSE PARTY'S WORK BETWEEN 21ST PLENUM OF LCY PRESIDUM AND APPEARANCE OF TITO/EXECUTIVE BUREAU LETTER LAST FALL BECAUSE "UNCERTAINTIES" LEFT OVER FROM THAT

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PERIOD ARE STILL CAUSING DIFFICULTIES.

3. LAZIC REJECTED AS MISTAKE WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE "SPECTACULAR" CADRE CHANGES WHEN BELGRADE PARTY MEETS. HE NOTED AS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT FACT THAT ALREADY MORE THAN 1000 PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN WORK ORGANIZATIONS IN BELGRADE HAD LOST THEIR JOBS INCLUDING 82 (BORBA REPORTED 87) GENERAL DIRECTORS OF ENTERPRISES. LAZIC CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THERE WERE NOT STILL "UNQUALIFIED" PEOPLE HOLDING DOWN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

4. PRESSURE HAS BEEN MOUNTING FOR BELGRADE PARTY ORGANIZATION TO ACT. IT WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY THE LESKOVAC PARTY ORGANIZATION EARLIER THIS MONTH (REFAIR). KOMMUNIST OF AUGUST 20 REPEATED CRITICISM, SAYING THAT SILENCE IS NO VIRTUE WHEN PROBLEMS EXIST. ALL CRITICISM EMPHASIZES THAT LACK OF DECISIVENESS IN BELGRADE COMMITTEE HURTS PARTY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.

5. COMMENT: ELEVEN MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE CIRCULATION OF TITO LETTER; ONLY BELGRADE PARTY OFFICIAL TO BE REMOVED WAS FORMER SECRETARY, BORA PAVLOVIC, BACK IN OCTOBER. BELGRADE PARTY ORGANIZATION NOW FINALLY BEING FORCED TO GO THROUGH REQUIRED EXERCISE IN SELF-CRITICISM. LONG DELAY WOULD SEEM TO TESTIFY TO STRENGTH OF BASIC NIKEZIC ORIENTATION IN BELGRADE LC. FROM TENOR OF LAZIC'S COMMENTS, NO LARGE-SCALE PERSONNEL CHANGES SHOULD BE LOOKED FOR FROM SEPTEMBER SESSION. BUT IF BELGRADE PARTY WANTS TO AVOID FURTHER PRESSURE TO RECONSTITUTE ITSELF, SUFFICIENT SELF-FLAGELLATION AND VOWS TO BE LEADER AND NOT FOOT-DRAGGER WILL BE REQUIRED.
JOHNSON

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